METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING TEXT INFORMATION

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/402,625 filed Mar. 12, 2009, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present application relates generally to text information selection.

BACKGROUND

[0003] There has been a recent surge in the use of touch displays on electronic devices. Some of these devices allow a user to perform operations on text information. For example, a user may view text information, edit text information, copy text information, delete text information, select text information, and/or the like. The user may utilize the touch display when performing the operations on the text information.

SUMMARY

[0004] Various aspects of examples of the invention are set out in the claims.

[0005] According to a first aspect of the invention, an apparatus comprising a processor configured to receive a multiple touch input comprising a first touch input relating to a first text position within a first word and a second touch input relating to a second text position, determine a first text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the first text position, determine a second text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the second text position, and select text information between the first text selection point and the second text selection point is disclosed.

[0006] According to a second aspect of the invention, a method comprising receiving a multiple touch input comprising a first touch input relating to a first text position within a first word and a second touch input relating to a second text position, determining a first text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the first text position, determining a second text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the second text position, and selecting text information between the first text selection point and the second text selection point is disclosed.

[0007] According to a third aspect of the invention, a computer-readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform receiving a multiple touch input comprising a first touch input relating to a first text position within a first word and a second touch input relating to a second text position, determining a first text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the first text position, determining a second text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the second text position, and selecting text information between the first text selection point and the second text selection point is disclosed.

[0008] According to a fourth aspect of the invention, a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium bearing computer program code embodied therein for use with a computer, the computer program code comprising code for receiving a multiple touch input comprising a first touch input relating to a first text position within a first word and a second touch input relating to a second text position, code for determining a first text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the first text position, code for determining a second text selection point positioned outside of a word based at least in part on the second text position, and code for selecting text information between the first text selection point and the second text selection point is disclosed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] For a more complete understanding of example embodiments of the present invention, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0010] FIGS. **1**A-**1**C are diagrams illustrating visual representations of selected text information according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0011] FIGS. **2**A-**2**F are diagrams representing text selection according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0012] FIG. **3** is a flow diagram showing a set of operations for selecting text information according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0013] FIG. **4**, including FIGS. **4**A and **4**B, is another flow diagram showing a set of operations for selecting text information according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0014] FIGS. **5**A-**5**E are diagrams illustrating input from a touch display according to an example embodiment of the invention; and

[0015] FIG. **6** is a block diagram showing an apparatus according to an example embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] An example embodiment of the present invention and its potential advantages are understood by referring to FIGS. **1**A through **6** of the drawings.

[0017] In an example embodiment, an apparatus displays a visual representation of text information to a user. The text information may comprise at least one character, such as a letter, a symbol, a number, a space, a control character, a punctuation character, and/or the like. The apparatus may represent text information in one or more rows, columns, and/or the like. The arrangement of the text information represented may vary. For example, the apparatus may represent text information in one or more rows where the apparatus represents the text information progressively from left to right within a row, and from top to bottom across rows. In another example, the apparatus may represent text information in one or more columns where the apparatus represents the text information progressively from top to bottom in a column, and from right to left across columns.

[0018] In an example embodiment, a text position relates to a position within a sequence of characters that comprise text information. For example, a text position may relate to a position preceding the first character in the text information. In another example, a text position may relate to a position between two adjacent characters in the text information. In still another example, a text position may relate to a position following the last character of the text information. In yet another example, a text position may relate to the position of a character in the text information.